

2007 Accelerated Health Care Career Training Initiative Request for Proposal Questions

Questions and Answers

Question: Last year the Hospital had to be the applicant. This year is it the University that has to be the applicant?

Answer: For the purpose of this RFP, it would typically be the person who is putting up the matching funds. It is required that you have a hospital partner, but it is not necessary that they be the applicants.

Question: Can there be more than one hospital on one grant?

Answer: Yes. However, as far as funding the hospitals could split the funding.

Question: Does the definition of accelerated apply to increased speed or method vs. increased number of students?

Answer: The purpose or hope of these models is that they are then attractive and draw interest from other educational institutes to replicate these programs. Simply adding more seats to your program is not a model that necessarily institutionalizes the kinds of change we are looking for in Health Professions education.

Question: In detail what are public matching funds? May funds come from a private foundation?

Answer: No. The State must receive the funds directly from a Public University or Community College.

Question: If Medicaid funds go to hospitals, how do educational institutions get monies?

Answer: The provider of the general fund dollars that are available for match will typically be a public educational program. The educational program will supply general fund matching dollars to the State Medicaid program. The State Medicaid program will add Federal matching funds, and, consistent with Federal regulations, make the payment to the hospital partner. Agreements that the hospital and the educational program have between them will determine how funding is provided back to public educational programs. Additional guidance will be provided once decisions have been made about which proposals will be funded.

Question: Can you increase enrollment in a current program?

Answer: Yes, if you have an existing program you can, because of the true acceleration.

Question: How much detail is really needed in regarding the State nursing shortage to support need of the narrative of the proposal?

Answer: What we talk about often are statewide needs, we know that we expect to be 7,000 nurses short by 2010 and 18,000 nurses short by 2015. However, there are also some data available on regional shortages. If you look at DLEG commission's workforce study, it not only has data related to statewide but regional as well. You want to be talking to your hospitals and

regional skills alliances more specific to your region. The data that you know related to the age or aging workforce of your region, also the rates in your hospitals are the helpful pieces of data that are regionally based. Knowing your statewide numbers are useful but it is more useful to know what it means to your particular community and/or region.

Question: Will stipends be allowed for model “C”?

Answer: Not at this time. We are actually working on a separate project that may provide more resources for that particular model.

Question: Can the project extend beyond September 30? If so is a year carry over allowed?

Answer: Yes, the projects can be extended beyond the state fiscal year. We list that fiscal year because that tells us that all the funding that we have has to be allocated within that state fiscal year. However, once the money leaves the state it comes under the purview of the hospital and then it depends on the length of time you want needs to be covered under your agreement with the hospital. You probably would not want to go over a year beyond the carry-over because you will still be required to do reporting until you are complete.

Question: The narrative has been reduced by half, to ten pages from the first round and the new proposal format under section III. Page 11 does not include a needs section, under what section would you like us to add needs data as Jeanette has described it?

Answer: After you describe your model, we would be looking for your identification of need.

Question: We are looking at continuation funding for two projects. We are making some changes based on feedback and evaluation data. However, since it is a continuation of a project is there a separate format for these types of proposals or do you want them submitted as new proposals?

Answer: In short, yes, we do want them submitted as new proposals, especially if you are tweaking your model. Just briefly describe the model you have been following and then identify what you have learned and how that then influenced what you want to do in the second round.

Question: For advance medical imaging, would a Rad Tech moving into advanced medical imaging be considered “up the health care ladder”?

Answer: If that is a ladder up, I do not know if that requires an additional educational degree, or if it is another dimension of Rad Tech. We would have to see your proposal to know and would consult with the field on that one.

Question: Accreditation approvals are necessary to do accelerated allied health programs, and this is time consuming. How can this be approached in this funding cycle?

Answer: If your program is not currently approved of having accreditation in a previous submission, we are at risk of awarding funds to those programs. If you are truly interested in an allied health program, we hope that you would already have had it approved and that you would be proceeding with it and this would be an additional resource.

Question: Why is there emphasis on “hurry faster”? Would a non-accelerated program be considered?

Answer: In short, no. We are not looking at having an accelerated program for the sake of acceleration and have quality fall by the wayside.

Question: Do you want separate proposals for each model from the same educational institution?

Answer: If you are sending in a proposal for two separate models, then there needs to be two separate proposals. We need to know the budgets and proposals for both.

Question: The CNA to LPN cohorts also spend 50-60 hours in school. Can programs apply for stipends in the group?

Answer: At this time, we do not have money for additional stipends.

Question: Can grant or matched funds be used for facility modification costs?

Answer: They can be, but we would need to see how that would contribute to the acceleration of the program and graduates. That would be under the category of capacity building, we would want to know how that would affect your ability to continue those graduates out into the future with that facility modification. It would be cautioned that you make your justification very clear, and keep in mind that resources are more limited this year.

Question: Are indirect costs allowed?

Answer: Please do not include university/community college indirect costs when developing the budget for your model.

Question: Do we have to match "other" funds?

Answer: No, these are funds outside the scope of this proposal.

Question: Are in-kind costs applicable as a match?

Answer: No, it has to be hard cash.

Question: Are the match funds considered leveraged funds? If so, then will we need to report those funds on the financial reports?

Answer: No. The purpose of the "other funds" category is to let us know what the entire cost of the program is so we can assess whether you have sufficient resources to complete the program successfully.

Question: Is there a pre-identified "range" of funding? I.e. You anticipate making XX number of awards and the average amount of award will be \$XX.

Answer: No, in the interest of getting the best projects that will provide the best outcome and give us innovations that we think will be transferable; we did not indicate a minimum or maximum of award.

Question: In the budget, there is a line item for 'audit'. Could you explain that item?

Answer: That would be the funds your school would need to perform your internal audit. Therefore, it is really a judgment call.

Question: We have a federal rate on indirects with our university. Would that need to be put down as other?

Answer: No. Again, please do not include school indirect costs when developing your budget.

Question: Can you also please clarify the flow of dollars once more so we are clear on how the educational institutions will be accessing funds when the dollars are being sent to the hospital? Am I understanding, correctly that even if the educational institution is the applicant, the money would be paid to the hospital?

Answer: Yes, these are hospital payments; we are required to make the payment to the hospital. In terms of the second step on how the funds get back to the school we will clarify after we have made decisions on what projects we are going to fund.

Question: If a proposed budget is larger than you are able to award, will you negotiate a reduced budget if the program is approved.

Answer: Yes, I think we would reserve that option if it looks like a very promising proposal. We would probably work with you and look at it in a more modest outcome, or some ability to do a smaller cohort for that program. We would not want to lose the opportunity to fund something, just because we cannot fund it at the top amount.

Question: Under Requirement 1 (Training Plan), part of the information requested is “program costs”. Does this mean the overall program budget total, is it supposed to reflect the program cost per student, or is it describing something else? Since the budget narrative portion under Requirement 5 will also lay out program costs on a line-by-line basis, I wanted to get clarification as to what MDLEG would specifically like to see listed under Requirement 1, and how that differs from what you would like to see in the budget narrative.

Answer: Only a basic description of the total program costs needs to be identified – what related components will be covered.

Question: The page limit does not include attachments – by “attachment”, is the RFP also referring to the items described as Exhibit A and Exhibit B (the Training Matrix [Requirement 2] and the budget matrix portion of the Requirement 5)?

Answer: The page limit identified does not include the attachment. Attachments include Exhibits A and B. In addition, they may include samples of curriculum, exhibits, and models.

Question: The funding period is Nov 2006 – September 2007. Does that mean students will need to be admitted to the accelerated program in November or would January 2007 be permissible?

Answer: Yes, students must be admitted during the project funding period and prior to September 30, 2007.

Question: Does this grant allow for program capacity building for A.D.N.’s within this current grant (The 04 grant allowed for this)? The grids attached have A.D.N.’s included but this program area is not mentioned in the original RFP. Or is this year’s grant only for CAN to LPN and BSN to MSN?

Answer: Yes the grant allows for program capacity building for ADN’s. This would fall under Model A as part of the ladder continuum.

Question: Does the match amount have to be 43.62% of the total for each line item? Or, can the entire match amount cover salary and fringes and the non match amount cover all other lines?

Answer: If you are seeking funding in your proposal to cover a particular item, then the budget should reflect the proper split in funding. For example, assume that additional travel is a component of your proposal. Further assume that your program currently funds \$2,000 worth of travel and your proposal would add an additional \$1,000. Your travel budget should be reflected as follows:

Non-match amount - \$554

Match amount - \$436

Other - \$2,000

Total – \$3,000